

SEP 08 2006

Application No. 09/936,840

Docket No. 741890-18

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type using an inflated body cavity accessible to a surgeon through an access port, defined by the device, surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device having:

fixing means for attaching the device to a patient's skin;

an innermost sleeve connected to said fixing means and positioned for contact with said patient's body; and

sealing means incorporating a foam shell positioned between the patient's body and the innermost sleeve to prevent substantial leakage of gas from the body cavity on inflation when in an inoperative position and formed to mould about a substantial portion of a surgeon's hand or surgical instrument on insertion in an operating position.

Claims 2-5 (Canceled).

6. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the foam shell is provided as a single block defining a passageway therein, to allow communication between the exterior and the cavity.

7. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the foam shell is formed in two parts, or as a single part partially divided along one axis, the parts being movable relatively to allow a surgeon access to the body cavity.

8. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 1, Claim 6 or Claim 7, in which the foam shell is formed by a plurality of individually disengageable layers, so that the surgeon can adjust the height of the foam shell in response to particular needs by adding or removing foam layers whereby a single device may be used on abdomens of varying thickness, enhancing flexibility of application.

9. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 8, in which the rigidity created by the induced gas and foam apron allows for hand insertion and withdrawal without the aid of an assistant or requiring the surgeon to use the other hand.

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10. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 6 or 7, in which the external valve created by the inclusion of the foam shell is enhanced by the pressure of the induced gas passing up between the double walled tube and acting to force the opposing faces of film together outside the patients abdominal cavity.

11. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the sealing means further incorporates a distal valve for insertion into the body cavity.

12. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in Claim 11, in which the distal valve includes a mechanical seal.

13. (Currently Amended) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type using an inflated body cavity accessible to a surgeon through an access port, defined by the device, surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device having:

body cavity engagement means for insertion into the incision to locate the device in position;

fixing means for attaching the device to a patient's skin, the fixing means including a ring; wherein the body cavity engagement means is adjustable by the positioning of the ring so that the positioning of the ring retracts the body cavity engagement means to define an access port and creates a sealing means between the incision and the body cavity engagement means; and

additional sealing means incorporating a toroid cell comprising a sealed, non-inflating bladder entirely filled with one of a liquid and a gel to prevent substantial leakage of gas from the body cavity on inflation of the body cavity when the sealing means is in an inoperative position and formed to mould about a substantial portion of a surgeon's hand or surgical instrument on insertion in an operating position.